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The President's Daily Brief

2 December 1970

49

~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 December 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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At the SALT talks Semonov proposed a separate agreement for ABM systems. *(Page 3)*

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[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

The latest report on the Ban Ban operation appears on *Page 6*.

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[redacted] 50X1

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NORTH VIETNAM - THAILAND

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NORTH VIETNAM

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SALT

In yesterday's meeting, Semenov proposed that ABM systems be singled out for a separate agreement "in the immediate future." He said that the details of the Soviet proposal would be provided at Friday's meeting. Semenov stated that a separate agreement on ABMs would not preclude further negotiations on strategic offensive weapons, but might, in fact, serve as a "substantial impetus" for reaching subsequent agreements on offensive systems. He cited the difficulties the latter have posed so far in the negotiations as justification for the new proposal. And in an apparent allusion to US plans for Safeguard, he contended that failure to act soon on Moscow's initiative might further complicate the problem of reaching an ABM accord.

Soviet officials have been dropping hints about a limited agreement for some time, but their motives in advancing the ABM proposal at this time are not entirely clear. The Soviets are undoubtedly concerned about US plans for the Safeguard system. In the face of US resistance to consideration of forward-based systems, they may also see their proposal as a means of advancing the pace of negotiations. On the other hand, they have received no encouragement on this score in their informal probes of US delegates, and should anticipate a cool response. By tabling a limited agreement on ABMs now, the Soviets may simply be trying to put the US on the defensive through the remainder of SALT III.

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Israel

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ISRAEL-CONGO-SUDAN

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COMMUNIST CHINA

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NOTES

Laos: Government forces in the vicinity of Ban Ban are continuing to make slow progress toward their objectives; the enemy has yet to counterattack. The four-battalion force moving toward Ban Ban from the south has reached the perimeter of the San Tiau airstrip, having pushed aside two small enemy units.

Mexico: Echeverria's cabinet appointees apparently do not include even the token "anti-Yankee" in ministries involved with US relations, which was a feature of recent cabinets. The new foreign minister is Emilio Rabasa, the current ambassador to the US and a close friend of Echeverria. Rabasa's predecessor in Washington, Hugo Margain, was retained as minister of finance. The only long-term holdover is Attorney General Sanchez Vargas, who has worked closely with the US in the fight to control narcotics.

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Chinese

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ANNEX

CHINESE 50X1

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